

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049655
ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /041 R

DRAFTED BY INR/REA RFDORR:SEO
APPROVED BY INR/DDR M PACKMAN
INR/REA - H E HOROWITZ
EA/K - E HURWITZ

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P R 051953Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T STATE 049655

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, JA, KN

SUBJECT: KOREANS REACT TO KYODO REPORT KIM CHONG-IL
DESIGNATED SUCCESSOR

REFERENCE: SEOUL 1709; TOKYO 2594

1. FOR SOME TIME, INR/REA ANALYST HAS BEEN SEEKING TO
SEPARATE WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT KIM CHONG-IL VIA RELIABLE
SOURCES (INCLUDING ROKG) FROM WHAT APPEARS TO BE A KCIA
CAMPAIGN TO PUBLICIZE KIM'S SHORTCOMINGS USING SOME
INFORMATION WHICH APPEARS ACCURATE AND SOME WHICH WE FIND
QUESTIONABLE. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN OF SOURCE FOR KYODO
NEWS STORY, BUT SUSPECT STORY COULD FALL INTO LATTER
CATEGORY.

2. DESPITE PERSISTENT INDICATIONS THAT KIM HAS BEEN
FORMALLY NAMED AS HIS FATHER'S SUCCESSOR (POSSIBLY
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IN A SECRET 1974 PARTY PLENUM; POSSIBLY IN MEETING DE-
SCRIBED IN KYODO STORY), WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN THAT WE
HAVE SEEN EVIDENCE WHICH IS PERSUASIVE AND RELIABLE.

3. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW BASIS OF ROKG BELIEF
THAT KIM'S POSITION AS SUCCESSOR HAS BEEN BASICALLY
SECURE SINCE 1975. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT

ROK SEES AS SIGNIFICANCE OF AUGUST 18 PANMUNJOM INCIDENT AS IT RELATES TO KIM'S SUCCESSION. PERHAPS ROK AUTHORITIES CAN SHED FURTHER LIGHT ON THEIR THINKING WITH RESPECT TO IMPLICATIONS OF PANMUNJOM INCIDENT UPON SUCCESSION QUESTION.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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